

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application and consideration and entry of this paper are respectfully requested in view of the herein remarks and accompanying information, which place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that the rejection under Section 102(b) has been withdrawn.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-14, 68, and 69 are currently under consideration. Claims 1, 9, and 10 are amended and claim 6 is canceled without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents. Claim 1 is amended to clarify the steps of the claimed method. Support for amended claim 1 can be found, for example, at the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 19, in Examples 1-3, and in claim 6 as originally filed.

Claim 9 is amended to remove recitation of a trademark, while claim 10 is amended to modify its dependency to one claim.

No new matter is added.

It is submitted that the claims herewith are patentably distinct over the prior art, and these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments to the claims presented herein are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply to clarify the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. THE OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS ARE OVERCOME

Claim 10 is objected to for allegedly referring to another claim in a non-alternative form, and for depending on canceled base claims. In response, Applicants amend claim 10 to depend from claim 1.

Claim 9 is objected to for reciting a trademark. In response, claim 9 is amended to remove this recitation. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the claims are respectfully requested.

III. THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112 IS OVERCOME

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action contends that the claims are vague and indefinite because the process steps are allegedly do not define the conditions for preparing a support structure or for culturing the cells.

In response, attention is drawn to the amended claims, wherein claim 1 clarifies the steps of the present invention. Consequently, the instant claims are not considered as vague or indefinite, as claim 1 herein recites conditions for preparing the support structure, i.e., “coating a support structure with a polymer having a sugar chain,” and for culturing the cells, i.e., “seeding and culturing cells in a culture medium on the support structure.” Importantly, terms such as “seeding” and “culturing” are well known in the art (e.g., see Molecular Biology of the Cell, 3rd ed, pages 156-162).

Therefore, the instant claims are in compliance with the requirements under the second paragraph of Section 112. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If any issue remains as an impediment to allowance, an interview with the Examiner and SPE are respectfully requested and the Examiner is additionally requested to contact the undersigned to arrange a mutually convenient time and manner for such an interview.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date, and, the Examiner is invited to telephonically contact the undersigned to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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